

ABBY HOUSE WINS TEXAS
HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Abby House of Needville, TX, for being the grand-prize winner of the Save Texas History essay contest in the seventh grade division.

The statewide contest is sponsored by the Texas General Land Office's Save Texas History program. The essay students were asked to write was, "What history in your community, or in Texas, is worth saving?" Abby wrote about the storied history of the Imperial Sugar building in Sugar Land, TX. The students' essays were judged based off of how compelling their story was, how useful and interesting the facts were, grammar, spelling and organization. For winning the grand-prize, Abby received numerous prizes from the San Antonio Tourism Council, from Six Flags Fiesta Texas tickets, to tickets to the San Antonio Zoo, and more. She is currently a seventh grader at Needville Junior High School.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Abby House for winning the grand-prize of the Save Texas History essay contest. We're proud to have her represent TX-22 and look forward to seeing her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to vote on roll call votes 138 through 158. Had I been present, I would have voted: nay on roll call number 138; nay on roll call number 139; aye on roll call number 140; aye on roll call number 141; aye on roll call number 142; aye on roll call number 143; aye on roll call number 144; aye on roll call number 145; aye on roll call number 146; aye on roll call number 147; nay on roll call number 148; aye on roll call number 149; aye on roll call number 150; aye on roll call number 151; nay on roll call number 152; aye on roll call number 153; aye on roll call number 154; aye on roll call number 155; aye on roll call number 156; aye on roll call number 157; and nay on roll call number 158.

COMMEMORATING THE 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA'S ASIAN FOOD FAIR & CULTURAL SHOW

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bangladesh Association of Florida. For 24 years, this fine organization has presented the Asian Food Fair & Cultural Show in

Palm Beach County. This annual program is eagerly awaited by citizens around South Florida for its exciting and diverse performances of singing, dancing, acrobatics and food from many Asian nations.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have been involved with the people of the Bangladesh Association of Florida since the inception of this wonderful program. It is one of the cultural highlights of every year. It is widely appreciated and greatly enjoyed by everyone who experiences its variety of entertainment. We are fortunate to have it on our schedule of great events, and I thank the Bangladesh Association for bringing it to us.

KOPFER TROMBONE SKILLS
RANKED FIRST IN STATE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Benjamin Kopfer of Fort Bend, TX, for being ranked first in state for playing bass trombone.

On top of being ranked first in state, Benjamin, a sophomore at Fort Bend Christian Academy (FBCA), was invited to participate in the Texas Private School Music Educators Association All-State Band for the second year in a row. It's rare for a sophomore to be invited to play with the All-State Band, let alone a sophomore who played the year before as well. When not amazing audiences with his musical talents, Benjamin also plays on the FBCA baseball team.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Benjamin for being ranked first in state. We are extremely proud of him and look forward to him achieving the All-State Band again next year.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS FULFILL
PROMISE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, House Republicans delivered on the promise to make the health care system work for American families by introducing the American Health Care Act. This legislation puts the patient first, not the government.

Families in the Second Congressional District and across the country have experienced how Obamacare has failed. Obamacare destroyed jobs, increased premiums, and presented people with fewer health care choices. The American Health Care Act is a real solution to ending the Obamacare failure.

The bill specifically protects those with pre-existing conditions, allows young adults to remain on their parent's insurance until they are 26, and provides a stable transition to a system of lower costs and increased options.

I appreciate Ways and Means Committee Chairman KEVIN BRADY, Chairman GREG WALDEN of Energy and Commerce, and Speaker PAUL RYAN for their dedication and remarkable

leadership. This is a positive first step that will advance health care for all Americans, as championed by President Donald Trump and Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, with HHS Secretary Tom Price.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops. We will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
SUPERFUND REINVESTMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, joined by 14 original cosponsors, I am pleased to reintroduce the Superfund Reinvestment Act. This legislation would provide much needed funding to clean up toxic waste sites throughout the United States and relieve the financial burden of cleanup that is currently shouldered by the American taxpayers.

There are more than 1,100 severely polluted Superfund sites across the United States that approximately 49 million Americans live within three miles of. These contaminated sites harm air and water quality and threaten the economic and social vitality of vulnerable communities. These communities can be exposed to toxins such as arsenic, benzene, PCBs, mercury, and a wide range of solvents, which can lead to health problems such as infertility, low birth weight, birth defects, leukemia, and respiratory difficulties.

The Superfund program was originally created in 1980 to clean up these contaminated sites help reduce exposure to the health risks and fears that come from living close to toxic waste. Unfortunately, at approximately 30 percent of Superfund sites known as orphan sites, those responsible for the pollution cannot be found or do not have the ability to pay, so instead the federal government foots the bill.

Originally, payments for orphan sites were financed through taxes on chemicals, petroleum, and corporate income, which were deposited into the Superfund Liability Trust Fund. This Fund ensured that those industries responsible for pollution pay for the remediation of sites where there is no responsible party. These taxes expired in 1995 and were not reauthorized. As a result, the Trust Fund has been depleted and the funding for the cleanup of orphan sites has shifted primarily to general funds.

The Superfund Reinvestment Act would reinstate taxes on the petrochemical industry to fund the cleanup of hazardous waste sites across the country. It would make sure that polluters, not taxpayers, are paying for cleanup of orphan sites. The bill includes excise taxes of \$.163 per barrel on crude oil or refined oil products and taxes ranging from \$.51 to \$11.35 per ton on certain chemicals. The bill would reinstate a corporate environmental income tax of .12 percent on a corporation's modified alternative minimum taxable income that exceeds \$3.735 million. This legislation would expand the definition of oil to include unconventional crude oil sources, such as tar sands and oil shale. This legislation also would guarantee that money from the Trust Fund is only spent on Superfund cleanups.